

## REPORT

OF

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th June 1885.

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| The improved plough invented in Madras ... ..   | <i>ib.</i> | The Bengal Government and the distress in Beerbhoom ... ..  | 809        |
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| Scarcity in Kandi ... ..  | <i>ib.</i> | Munsiffship examination ... ..  | <i>ib.</i> |
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| The grievances of the ryots ... ..  | <i>ib.</i> | The treasurer of the Balasore Collectorate ... ..   | <i>ib.</i> |
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| Scarcity of water at Amlai ... ..   | <i>ib.</i> | Government resolution on the administration of the road and public works cesses ... ..                | <i>ib.</i> |
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| The appointment of Commissions ... ..   | 799        | Administration of the Road Cess Fund in Orissa ... ..   | <i>ib.</i> |
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| The death of Kumudeswar of Assam ... ..   | <i>ib.</i> |   |            |
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| The volunteering movement ... ..  | 800        |   |            |



## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No.                 | Names of newspapers.             | Place of publication.    | Reported number of subscribers. | Date of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>ASSAMESE.</b>    |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 1                   | "Assam Vilásini" ... ..          | Sibsagar                 | .....                           |  |
| 2                   | "Assam News" ... ..              | Ditto                    | 450                             |  |
| <b>BENGALI.</b>     |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 3                   | "Sansodhini" ... ..              | Chittagong               | 700                             |  |
| 4                   | "Purva Darpan" ... ..            | Ditto                    | .....                           |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 5                   | "Ananda Bazar Patriká" ... ..    | Calcutta                 | 700                             | 15th June 1885.                                    |
| 6                   | "Arya Darpan" ... ..             | Ditto                    | 102                             | 12th ditto.  |
| 7                   | "Bangabási" ... ..               | Ditto                    | 12,000                          | 13th ditto.  |
| 8                   | "Bháratbási" ... ..              | Ditto                    | .....                           |  |
| 9                   | "Bhárat Mihir" ... ..            | Ditto                    | 625                             | 11th ditto.  |
| 10                  | "Burdwán Sanjivani" ... ..       | Burdwan                  | 296                             | 9th ditto.   |
| 11                  | "Cháruvartá" ... ..              | Sherepore, Mymensingh    | 529                             | 7th ditto.   |
| 12                  | "Dacca Prakásh" ... ..           | Dacca                    | 425                             | 14th ditto.  |
| 13                  | "Education Gazette" ... ..       | Hooghly                  | 800                             | 12th ditto.  |
| 14                  | "Grámvartá Prakáshiká" ... ..    | Comercolly               | 500                             | 13th ditto.  |
| 15                  | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... ..           | Beauleah, Rajshahye...   | 200                             |  |
| 16                  | "Mussulman Bandhu" ... ..        | Bhowanipore, Calcutta    | .....                           |  |
| 17                  | "Murshidábád Patriká" ... ..     | Berhampore               | 437                             |  |
| 18                  | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ..  | Ditto                    | .....                           |  |
| 19                  | "Navavibhákar" ... ..            | Calcutta                 | 850                             | 15th ditto.  |
| 20                  | "Paridarshak" ... ..             | Sylhet                   | 440                             |  |
| 21                  | "Patáká" ... ..                  | Calcutta                 | .....                           | 12th ditto.  |
| 22                  | "Prajá Bandhu" ... ..            | Chandernagore            | 900                             | 12th ditto.  |
| 23                  | "Pratikár" ... ..                | Berhampore               | 600                             | 12th ditto.  |
| 24                  | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ..    | Kakiniá, Rungpore        | 220                             | 11th ditto.  |
| 25                  | "Sádháraní" ... ..               | Calcutta                 | 500                             | 14th ditto.  |
| 26                  | "Sahachar" ... ..                | Ditto                    | 500                             | 10th ditto.  |
| 27                  | "Samaya" ... ..                  | Ditto                    | 1,500                           | 15th ditto.  |
| 28                  | "Sanjivani" ... ..               | Ditto                    | 4,000                           | 13th ditto.  |
| 29                  | "Sáraswat Patra" ... ..          | Dacca                    | 345                             |  |
| 30                  | "Som Prakásh" ... ..             | Changripottá, 24-Perghs. | 1,000                           | 15th ditto.  |
| 31                  | "Sulabha Samáchar" ... ..        | Calcutta                 | 3,000                           | 13th ditto.  |
| 32                  | "Surabhi" ... ..                 | Ditto                    | 700                             | 16th ditto.  |
| <i>Daily.</i>       |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 33                  | "Dainik" ... ..                  | Calcutta                 | .....                           | 15th to 19th June 1885.                            |
| 34                  | "Samvád Prabháhar" ... ..        | Ditto                    | 225                             | 13th to 18th ditto.                                |
| 35                  | "Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ... .. | Ditto                    | 300                             | 13th to 19th ditto.                                |
| 36                  | "Samachár Chandriká" ... ..      | Ditto                    | 625                             | 15th to 17th ditto.                                |
| 37                  | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ..  | Ditto                    | 520                             | 13th to 16th and 18th June 1885.                   |
| 38                  | "Prabháti" ... ..                | Ditto                    | 1,000                           | 15th to 20th June 1885.                            |
| <b>HINDI.</b>       |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 39                  | "Kshatriya Patrika" ... ..       | Patna                    | 400                             |  |
| <i>Fortnightly.</i> |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 40                  | "Chumparun Hitakari" ... ..      | Bettia                   | .....                           |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 41                  | "Behar Bandhu" ... ..            | Bankipore                | .....                           |  |
| 42                  | "Bhárat Mitra" ... ..            | Calcutta                 | 1,500                           | 11th June 1885.                                    |
| 43                  | "Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..          | Ditto                    | 500                             | 15th ditto.  |
| 44                  | "Uchit Baktá" ... ..             | Ditto                    | 300                             | 13th ditto.  |
| 45                  | "Hindi Samáchar" ... ..          | Bhagulpore               | 700                             |  |
| <b>PERSIAN.</b>     |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 46                  | "Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ..          | Calcutta                 | 250                             | 12th June 1885.                                    |
| <b>URDU.</b>        |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 47                  | "Gauhur" ... ..                  | Calcutta                 | 100                             |  |
| 48                  | "Sharaf-ul-Akhbar" ... ..        | Behar                    | 250                             |  |
| <i>Bi-weekly.</i>   |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 49                  | "Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ... ..   | Calcutta                 | 340                             |  |
| <i>Daily.</i>       |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 50                  | "Urdu Guide" ... ..              | Calcutta                 | 365                             | 8th and 13th to 20th June 1885.                    |
| <b>URIYA.</b>       |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| <i>Monthly.</i>     |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 51                  | "Taraka" ... ..                  | Calcutta                 | .....                           | June 1885.   |
| 52                  | "Shiksábandhu" ... ..            | Ditto                    | .....                           |  |
| 53                  | "Pradip" ... ..                  | Ditto                    | .....                           |  |
| <i>Weekly.</i>      |                                  |                          |                                 |  |
| 54                  | "Utkal Dípiká" ... ..            | Cuttack                  | 200                             | 30th May 1885.                                     |
| 55                  | "Utkal Darpan" ... ..            | Balasore                 | 116                             | 2nd June 1885.                                     |
| 56                  | "Balasore Samvad Váhika" ... ..  | Ditto                    | 205                             | 4th ditto.   |
| 57                  | "Sebaka" ... ..                  | Cuttack                  | 200                             | 3rd ditto.   |



## POLITICAL.

THE *Cháru Vártá*, of the 7th June, says that since the administration of Lord Lytton, who harassed the natives, the desire of Russia for the conquest of India

CHARU VARTA,  
June 7th, 1885.

Russia and England.

has become strong. Russia believes that the natives of India are not satisfied with English rule, and this belief has emboldened her. The administration of Lord Ripon made Russia less sanguine, but it had no permanent influence upon her, for otherwise she would not have advanced so rapidly. Had the natives been the rulers of India, Russia could never have thought of invading it. She thinks that she has as much right as England to rule India, if she can simply defeat the English in war. If the English and the natives are united by common interests, Russia's hope will for ever vanish. If the English cannot speedily undermine the foundation upon which the superstructure of Russian ambition is based, they will be practically helping Russia to attain the object of her ambition.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th June, thinks that the English are labouring under a wrong impression, namely, that if Russia enters Afghanistan the safety of

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 9th, 1885.

Russia and England.

the Indian Empire will be endangered. The English do not understand that the Afghans hate them, and therefore try to contract friendship with them. It is of course desirable that there should subsist amicable relations between the English and the Afghans; but it is a mistake to think that India cannot be defended without the friendship of the Afghans, who are barbarians, and whose friendship therefore cannot be lasting. The friendship of the Afghans is not only not the best means of securing the peace of India, but it is also one of the worst. The English are paying large sums to propitiate the Amir, but it is not doing anything to attach the natives more firmly to the English rule. They are doing nothing to improve the physical and mental powers of the natives. The writer thinks that the natives should be more largely employed in high offices under the State. The native soldiers have conquered India for the English, and have fought bravely for them in China, Afghanistan, and Africa. But it is a matter of great regret that not a single native has yet been advanced to the position of a Commanding Officer, and that no Shikh, Rajput, Mahratta, Pathan or Mogul of high caste and family is found in the ranks of officers in the native army of the Indian Empire. The writer thinks that natives of education and respectability should be trained in the art of war, and allowed to enlist themselves as volunteers.

3. The same paper is glad to hear that the attempts of Mr. Gladstone to bring about peace are likely to be crowned with success, and that thus many thousands of lives will be saved.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The prospects of peace.

4. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th June, says that the French Government has conferred upon its Indian subjects all the privileges enjoyed by Frenchmen. Indians under French rule can send representatives to the French Parliament—in which right, all other rights are included. Heaven only knows when the English will follow this good example of the French. The French Government is about to confer upon its Indian subjects the military privileges which are enjoyed by Frenchmen, and are going to subject them like Frenchmen to compulsory service in the army. Anglo-Indians may ridicule the French for this, but the world will praise them. The French Government deals with its subjects without having any regard to distinctions of colour or creed. The English have not yet obtained credit for doing so. It is also doubtful whether they

SAHACHAR,  
June 10th, 1885.

The conferring of privileges upon its Indian subjects by the French Government.



will ever obtain that credit. The English Government will have in time to confer all privileges upon Indians. But it is better to give that willingly beforehand which one will be compelled to give in future. Indians will be deeply grateful to the English Government of it confers privileges upon them now. But they will not be so grateful when the British Government will confer privileges upon them in future owing to sheer compulsion. Why should not the English do what the French are doing? To see the English defeated by the French in the matter of just and generous dealing is very painful to Indians. The conferring of privileges by the French Government upon its Indian subjects may produce very evil results. The English should see that their Indian subjects are not discontented upon seeing the happiness of the Indian subjects of the French.

SANACHAR,  
June 10th, 1885.

5. The same paper says that if England now suddenly engages in a war with Russia, she will be overwhelmed with troubles. Though England was aided by France, Turkey, and Sardinia in the Crimean war, she had to suffer great troubles. If a war now breaks out with Russia, England will be assisted by no country. The services of Afghanistan cannot be counted upon, inasmuch as it cannot be ascertained which party it will ultimately join. This time the war will be carried on not in Europe, but in Central Asia. England will be finally victorious with the help of Indian money and Indian troops, but the victory will be gained when she has been exhausted with vast expenditure of blood and money.

War with Russia.

SANJIVANI,  
June 13th, 1885.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 13th June, hears that M. Olivier Pain, the Minister of the Mahdi, and the head of the Communist party in France, a Frenchman by birth, recently made his appearance at Pondicherry in the disguise of a Russian. He has left Pondicherry by rail. What can be his mission in India? Will he create rebellion in India on behalf of the Mahdi? Or is he to supply Russia with information about India?

Olivier Pain.

SANJIVANI.

7. The same paper says that the Liberal Ministry lost its power in 1874 by trying to increase the tax on beer; it is again going to lose its power this time for a similar attempt. England is a lover of wine, and any Ministry opposed to the wine interest must necessarily fall. So the Liberals will fall, and the Conservatives, who are for beer and for blood, will come to power. The writer is afraid of the fate of India under a Conservative Ministry.

The change of Ministry.

UCHIT VAKTA,  
June 13th, 1885.

8. The *Uchit Vaktá*, of the 13th June, says that though the policy of the British Government towards Russia has been hitherto erroneous, it is so strong in men and money that Russia will be able to do nothing even if it commits further mistakes in its policy. The support of Government by the Indian princes have awakened in the hearts of Indians under the British Government a strong desire to show their heroism and loyalty by fighting with Russia. Indians are dissatisfied with Russia even though she has not yet invaded India, consequently there is no probability of Russia's succeeding in occupying India. The Indian public need not be uneasy owing to the fear of Russia.

Russia.

SADHARANI,  
June 14th, 1885.

9. The *Sádháraní*, of the 14th June, says that Sir Richard Temple has attributed the reluctance of Indians at present to enter the army to the low salary allowed to the native soldiers, and to the improvement that has taken place in the condition of the people. But Sir Richard Temple has not mentioned that it is the want of prospects of promotion for native soldiers, however greatly they may distinguish themselves, that makes natives reluctant to enter the army.

Reluctance of natives to enter the army.



Sir Richard Temple has given no reason for the fact mentioned by him, that the race which was most warlike fifty years ago has now become disinclined to war. The editor says that the rigour of British administration and the disarming of the population have brought about this result. If the English Government does not even now do away with the system of rigorous administration, and allow the people of the North-Western Provinces to use arms, the English Government as well as Indians will be ruined in future. It is almost impossible that England will be able to bring from England and maintain at enormous cost a sufficient number of English soldiers, and thus defend India. Sir Richard Temple also has recommended no such thing. There is also no probability that India will be defended by the present number of English and native soldiers.

10. The same paper says that it is a very fortunate circumstance that there is probability of the English Government's obtaining the help of other native soldiers than that of its own. There are the troops of the native princes, whose services Government may obtain. But if Government desires to avail itself of the services of the troops of the native princes, these troops, as Sir Richard Temple has recommended, should be well trained. Many Englishmen apprehend that if the troops of the native princes are trained, those princes may drive the English out of the country with the assistance of their trained troops. To convince Englishmen, who think so of their error, Sir Richard Temple has said that the troops of the native princes are like the troops of the English and the general native public loyal to the Queen. But the loyalty of the native princes depends upon the administration of the country in a satisfactory manner by the English Government. The writer believes that the administration by the English Government has not yet become so satisfactory as to secure the deep loyalty of Indians. That peace reigns throughout the country is due to the vigour of British administration. The native princes have been unjustly treated in many instances. Sir Richard Temple has said that the English Government will be greatly benefited, if it obtains the services of the troops of the native princes for a time. In his opinion the troops of the native princes may be employed to defend the cities, to watch on the frontier of Scinde, and to carry letters from the seat of war. Some of these troops may also be sent to the field for fighting.

SADHARANI,  
June 14th, 1885.

11. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th June, says that the Liberal party has been defeated in its attempt to increase the tax on beer in a Christian country. The Liberal Ministry has resolved to resign. The resignation of the Gladstone Ministry will be followed by war, and India will be ruined. The Conservatives will harass and distress the people of India to an extent which can better be imagined than described.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 14th, 1885.

12. The *Samaya*, of the 15th June, says that if the Conservatives come to power, war between England and Russia will be inevitable, Lord Dufferin will have to resign, and there will be no end of the miseries of the people of India.

SAMAYA,  
June 15th, 1885.

13. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 15th June, says:—Through the grace of God all fears of war are now probably at an end. But though all fears of war are removed, all the troubles of the people of India are not yet at an end. The war preparations have completely drained the exchequer, and the authorities are now anxious to raise money by any means they can resort to. They have resolved upon even availing themselves of the local funds. This is not all. Parliament has granted a loan of ten crores of rupees for constructing Indian frontier defences, and the people of this

ANANDA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
June 15th, 1885.



country will have to pay interest on this sum until they can repay the principal. Considering the present position of Russians at the door of India, the defence works have become a necessity. But it is impossible for the people of India to bear all this expense. They will have to pay as interest 40 lakhs of rupees a year. Again, at least a crore of rupees will probably have to be added to the expenditure on the army for the purpose of increasing the military strength of India. Further, the relations of Government with the Amir are such that the closer they become, the larger the subsidies which he will demand. A large expenditure again must be incurred if the Shah of Persia were to be conciliated. India is plainly unable to bear these expenses. It therefore behoves the people now to make known their poverty to Government, and their prayer to be exempted from all liability to pay these enormous charges. Lord Dufferin will probably support this prayer. The people of India should bestir themselves in another matter, namely in helping to secure the return of the Liberals to power at the next general election. For this purpose they must make preparations from this time. The British nation should be convinced that the statement of Lord Randolph Churchill that Indians are dissatisfied at the prevention of war with Russia is not founded in fact. The people of India should now call public meetings, and support the Russian policy of the Liberal Ministry.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 15th, 1885.

14. The same paper says that English officials have always observed with surprise the military skill as well as the mental and moral qualifications of the people of India. If the English nation had so desired, it could have conferred lasting benefits upon the world, and increased the glory of England by raising the people of India in the scale of civilization. But to what a sad plight have the English reduced India! The country has been impoverished, and the physical and intellectual vigour of the people has been destroyed. The acquisition of this vast empire has not increased the strength of England, but has on the contrary weakened her; but England is not to blame for this result. Englishmen first entered India as robbers, and extended their empire in it by a series of robberies. They were thus obliged to follow a robber's policy. They could not forget their wrong doings, the memory of which still fills their minds with fear; hence the introduction of a rigorous system of administration in this country. England now finds it difficult to escape from its present perilous situation. Whenever the people of India show their loyalty to the British Government, the rigour of the administration is somewhat relaxed. This was the case in 1858 after the suppression of the Sepoy revolt. This state of things, however, does not last long. Fear and distrust soon arise in the minds of the rulers. They remember their former misdeeds and witness the injustice and oppression committed by the present officers of Government. These are the causes of the misery of the people of India. These prevent Lord Dufferin in spite of his desire to the contrary from placing arms in the hands of natives. Only in two ways can the present degraded condition of Indians be improved, namely, first, by an increase of the moral strength of the rulers, and second, by an increase of the loyalty of natives.

The loyalty of Indians.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

15. The same paper says that owing to the policy by which the Premier and Lord Dufferin have succeeded in averting a war with Russia, the glory of English rule has increased in India. The injury to English prestige caused by the fighting at Panjdeh has been repaired by this subsequent action of Government. The safety of British rule in India will never be jeopardized if the present line of policy is not departed from.

England and Russia.



16. The same paper refers to the statement of a Russian newspaper that as the long as the Amir remains between Russia and England, possibility of disputes

England and Russia.

between the two powers will remain, and observes that the remark is true, and Government also perceives its truth, but until it can trust the natives of India, there will be no hope of a better state of things.

17. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 15th June, says that England will be placed in a very dangerous situation if she engages in a war with Russia at this time.

England and Russia.

She will not this time obtain the assistance of those powers who aided her in the Crimean war. Germany and Austria will not allow Turkey to join England. Germany will see that there is no bloodshed in Europe in a struggle for dominion in Asia between England and Russia. The English will not be able to easily injure Russia by entering the Black Sea. Russia has increased the number of war-ships in the Black Sea. There is now 100 Russian war-ships there. Nor will the English be able to enter the Baltic, inasmuch as Germany, Denmark, and Sweden will not allow her to do so. A large tract on the north and south of St. Petersburg again has been made invulnerable with a chain of forts. Consequently this time the war will be carried on only in Central Asia. But it is very difficult to collect troops in that inaccessible region. In this war the English will have to depend upon the blood and treasure of India. Everything of India will have to be spent in this all-devouring war. If, under these circumstances, England willingly plunges into a war with Russia, it will become evident that fate is averse to India.

18 The same paper says that Englishmen living in British Burmah

Incorporation of British Burmah with the Colonial Empire.

are anxious for the severance of its connection with India, and for its amalgamation with the

British Colonial Empire. They believe that all the grievances of Burmah are due to its being under the Government of India. The editor does not intend to enter into the question whether Burmah will become happier or not after the severance of its connection with India. But he says that the happiness of Burmah under British rule has not been less than that of the Indian provinces under the same rule. As for control over the finances, not only Burmah, but the Indian provinces also will be benefited if they obtain that right. The Rangoon merchants have said that the expenditure of the income of each province in that province alone may be attended with disadvantages in an empire like India, but that there can be no such disadvantage in the case of Burmah. The writer does not understand why there can be no such disadvantage in the case of Burmah. If it be the duty of the Indian provinces to contribute towards the expenses of the Government of India, it is the duty of Burmah also to do so. Had there been no Government of India, and the local Governments had been independent, then only could the income of each province have been spent in it alone.

The grievance of contribution towards the expenses of the Government of India Burmah shares in common with the Indian provinces. Another objection that has been urged is that there is no High Court in Burmah. But there is no High Court in Assam and the Central Provinces also, and the Punjab has even now only its Chief Court. Railways and roads have been more rapidly constructed in Burmah than in India. The Burmese have no objection to Burmah's connection with India. Only Englishmen living in Burmah object to it.

19. The same paper says that the real object of the efforts of the English merchants in Burmah for its amalgamation with the British Colonial Empire is

The English merchants and independent Burmah.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 15th, 1885.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 15th, 1885.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.



to get independent Burmah annexed. Because their repeated prayers to the Government of India for the annexation of that country have been rejected, they are desirous of freedom similar to that of Australia. If they obtain that freedom they will annex independent Burmah in a day. The merchants have said that there is no natural boundary between independent and British Burmah, and that the anarchy in independent Burmah is injuring the trade in Rangoon. The editor has no objection to the incorporation of British Burmah with the Colonial Empire. But so long as it is connected with India he will never allow the Government to enter into a war with independent Burmah for the sake of a few selfish English merchants.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 15th, 1885.

20. The same paper says that the French Government is going to compel its Indian subjects to serve in the army like Frenchmen. Indians are sorry because the English Government does not confer upon them the privileges enjoyed by Englishmen. Is it desirable that while the Bengali subjects of the French are about to be admitted into the army, the Bengali subjects of the English should be denied that privilege? The English Government should learn impartiality from the French Government. The French Government is going to give effect to its intention.

SOM PRAKASH  
June 15th, 1885.

21. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 15th June, says that more anxious England is becoming for peace, the more extensively is Russia making preparations for war. Russia thinks that her object will be gained if she can occupy Herat. But this is a vain hope. It is an error to suppose that the English Lion has ceased to be warlike owing to long continued peace. The English are not addicted to luxury. They are always awake and energetic.

SOM PRAKASH.

22. The same paper says that it is now almost certain that a war will not break out between England and Russia, owing to disputes regarding the Afghan boundary. The Liberal Ministry deserves thanks for bringing about this happy result by acting calmly and coolly. But the peace will not prove lasting. It is not certain that the Afghans and the Turkomans will not destroy this fruit of the labours of England and Russia. Both Afghans and Turkomans are fond of plundering. It is very probable that they will trespass into each other's territory, and forcibly take away cattle from each other. The Amir and the English Government will not be able to restrain the plundering Afghans. Nor will the Czar be able to restrain the Turkomans. Thus there will be constant collisions between the Afghans and the Turkomans. The Czar will want that the plundering Afghans should be punished. But the Amir will not perhaps listen to that demand. Nor will it be in his power to punish those plundering subjects of his. Under these circumstances the peace will not prove lasting.

SAR SUDHĀNIDHI,  
June 15th, 1885.

23. The *Sār Sudhānidhi*, of the 15th June, is seized with consternation at the change of Ministry in England, and is sorry that much blood and treasure will be spent under the new Ministry.

SAMVĀD PRABHAKAR  
June 17th, 1885.

24. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 17th June, says that the Conservatives have come to power, and Lord Salisbury, who only the other day called Russia false and treacherous has become the Prime Minister. The Russian Ambassador said the other day that if Lord Salisbury became Prime Minister he would be recalled by his Government, and that the diplomatic relation of Russia with England would cease. The Conservatives will quarrel, not only with Russia, but also with France about Egypt.



DAINIK,  
June 18th, 1885.

25. The *Dainik*, of the 18th June, says that Russia may not say so publicly, but it has a desire to conquer India.

Distrust of natives.

England is always afraid of Russia. It has unnecessarily estranged the feelings of the Afghans by going to strengthen their country for fear of Russia. England is under the impression that if Afghans are not friendly there is no safety for the British Empire. Owing to this mistaken impression it has forgotten to take the only means by which alone it can achieve success. England has ruled India for a century, but it has not yet learnt to trust the natives, who have been deprived of their power of self-defence, and even of representing their grievances to the rulers. Some educated natives of Bengal applied to Government for enrolment as volunteers. But Government has not yet come to any decision on the subject. It does not trust natives and will not allow them to become volunteers. Russia is advancing rapidly, and England should not be rash at this time. The writer asks the English to trust natives. If they do so Russia will not be able to do them any harm. The English do not respect the native princes as they should. They try to abolish their armies and to annex their dominions. If the native princes are made strong, and their armies trained in warfare, the English will have nothing to fear from Russia.

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

26. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 9th June, says that the natives were loyal to the English, because the English though foreigners sympathised with them.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 9th, 1885.

Scarcity of water in Burdwan.

Government afforded medical aid during the prevalence of epidemic diseases, and saved lives at a great cost in times of scarcity; but those days are gone by. Why does not the Government take any steps to alleviate the sufferings of its subjects? Why are they suffering for want of water? Who is to blame for all this? If people cannot get rice to eat and water to drink their life is not worth living. Let Government reign in a province depopulated by the famine, and people will not come to see what it does. Cholera is raging in every part of the mofussil, and the filthiness of water is the cause of the prevalence of the disease. The members of the Road Cess Committee sanctioned Rs. 5,000 out of the Rs. 20,000 granted by Government for excavating tanks and sinking wells. But the Chairman thinks that the money has been given by Government for roads, and that it should not be spent for any other purpose. He could easily have ascertained the views of Government on the subject by writing to it, but instead of doing that he has referred the matter again to the Committee. Much time will thus be lost, and no means adopted to remove the scarcity of water.

27. The same paper says that natives from all parts of the country have applied for enrolment as volunteers. The

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The volunteering movement.

Government is in a difficulty. It cannot refuse the application, for then the natives will be discontented at a time when Russia is at the gates of India. Russia will understand by the refusal that the English do not trust the natives, and that the natives will help her if she can enter India. Again, the Government does not really trust the natives, and does not venture to entrust them with arms. If with Russia in the front, the natives rise in the rear, the Government will be placed in a very difficult position. All these considerations are weighing heavily with the Government. If Government really suspects the natives, it should speak out, for then the natives will be in a position to correct their faults, if they have any.



BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
June 9th, 1885.

28. The same paper says that the chowkidars in the Burdwan district are not paid in money. They get lands in lieu of their services. The outturn of their lands this year has been next to nothing. They are in great distress and have applied to the Collector for help, but no steps have yet been taken to relieve their distress. They have not been admitted to the annachhatras, and they cannot go to distant places in quest of work by giving up their chowkidarships. During the last famine they received tuccavi advances which they have paid off in full. The writer thinks that the chowkidars and agriculturists fully deserve these advances. If the Collector writes to Government, some steps are sure to be taken to relieve these men.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

29. The same paper is glad to notice that Government has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of carrying out relief works in Beerbhoom, and has directed the grant of *Tuccavi* advances at a low rate of interest.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

30. A correspondent writing to the same paper says that, since the establishment of the water-works in Burdwan, the water of the Banka has been dammed. The stagnant water has become so poisonous that its use may bring on many diseases. The Commissioners, on the other hand, have prohibited bathing in the pipe water. There are no hydrants at the old chouk and other places. The writer asks the authorities to keep the water of the Banka clear and to set up hydrants in the old chouk and the Ghora Sahid wards. If this cannot be done, they should reduce the taxes in those quarters where there will be no hydrants.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

31. A correspondent writing to the same paper says that he saw several persons on the road from Mankar to Bud-Bud returning from the annachhatra at the former place, where they were refused admission. They were pale and emaciated, and had not tasted anything for four days.

The Musalmans of Amur are in great distress. Machhu Bibi of the village does not get a meal every day. Annachhatras have been established in many places under the supervision of high officials, but the sufferings of the people are not abating. Those only who have been actually reduced to skeletons get relief in the annachhatras, all others are expelled from them. With a view to curry favour with superior officers, the managers of the chhatras are doing their best to reduce their cost.

SAHACHAR,  
June 10th, 1885.

32. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th June, says that the military expenditure of India, which amounts to one-third of the total income of Government, should be reduced, and should by no means be increased. The writer does not propose that that expenditure should be immediately reduced, as such a proposal at present, when Englishmen are suffering from Russophobia, would but serve to increase the violence of the disease. If it is indispensably necessary to increase the army, this should be effected without incurring additional expenditure. This can be effected by the dismissal of a certain number of the present English officers and by the appointment, out of the money thus saved, of native officers and additional native troops. The writer does not know whether the Home Government will listen to the Government of India's recommendations in favour of native soldiers and native officers. But Anglo-Indian military men have begun to raise a clamour. Natives of respectable families do not now enter the military service, because guided by an evil policy the English Government has closed the higher offices in the army to natives. Native officers will in no respect be inferior to English ones.

SAHACHAR.

33. The same paper says that the measures adopted by the Bengal Government to relieve the scarcity in Burdwan are not sufficient. The grant of

Government and the distress.



Rs. 10,000 for the removal of the scarcity of water in Beerbhoom, and the lowering of the annual interest on tuccavi loans to one and a half per cent., are not sufficient. The grant of a larger sum is necessary. Government should distribute rice gratis. The giving of one or two pice will not do any good. It is certain that the famine is becoming more and more dreadful, and that the measures adopted for its relief by Government are not sufficient.

34. The Burdwan correspondent of the same paper writes that it is said that the scarcity of water is so great in villages that men have to quench their thirst with water, and that impure, fetched from a distance of 8 or 10 miles. Government should promptly excavate tanks and wells in villages under these circumstances.

SAHACHAR,  
June 10th, 1885.

35. A correspondent writing to the *Rungpore Dik Prakásh*, of the 11th June, says that a young cowherd was very thirsty in the fields in Pakuria in Pubna. He began to run towards his house, but the thirst increased, and he fell down senseless within about 30 cubits of it. His life has been saved by careful treatment. Fifteen minutes more, and all would have been over with him.

RUNGPORE DIK  
PRAKASH,  
June 11th, 1885.

36. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 11th June, says that the famine is becoming increasingly severe. During the earlier stages of the distress the applicants for relief belonged to the lower classes of the Hindu community, but now even Brahmans and Kayastas have taken to begging. Even Mahomedan females have begun to come out to beg. It is gratifying to observe that Government has at length come forward to grant relief. It is not quite possible to cope with the distress for any very long period by means of subscriptions raised from the people. But the relief which is being granted by Government does not appear to be adequate. It is really difficult to understand how an adult male or female can live upon two pice worth of rice and a boy on half this amount per day, the rates sanctioned by Government. Government has sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 for the relief of distress in Beerbhoom, and relief works have been commenced in Nulhai and Paikpara, two villages of that district. The repairs of old tanks have also been taken in hand. But the expenditure sanctioned by Government is not adequate in view of the widespread distress. It behoves His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to put forth vigorous efforts to help the sufferers. Now that Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner of Burdwan, is about to visit the afflicted localities, the public associations of the country should lose no time to send their delegates to meet him there, and bring the true state of things to his notice.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
June 11th, 1885.

37. The same paper thus refers to the death of Kumar Kumudeswar, the last lineal descendant of the Assam Raj family:—The Kumar's death is due to the injustice, oppression, and cruel treatment to which he was subjected at the hands of Government. The thought of the cruel treatment to which he was subjected by the officers of Government is enough to make one lose all patience. It is not known what offence the late Kumar committed against Government. The only offence that one knows of is that Government had deprived his ancestors of every thing they possessed. For this the Kumar, who was under the superintendence of Government, has prematurely met with his end without the advantage of medical treatment.

BHARAT MIHIR.

38. The *Aryadarpan*, of the 12th June, says that the killing of natives by Europeans has become rather too frequent. The Hext case, the Dacca case, the

ARYA DARPAN,  
June 12th, 1885



Enge case, and the Sullivan case of Lahore prove the frequency of such murders. Want of adequate punishment has emboldened Europeans. Government should take steps to prevent the killing of its native subjects. If two or three offenders are punished, such murders are sure to become less frequent.

ARYA DARPAN,  
June 12th, 1885.

39. The same paper is surprised to find that while people are dying of starvation in numbers in Beerbhoom, in Bankoora, and in Burdwan, Government is doing nothing to save life. The newspapers are constantly informing Government of the dire distress; but it does not believe them. Why? What motives can the correspondents of newspapers have in making false representations?

ARYA DARPAN.

40. The same paper says that the Government of Assam is much better than the Government of Bengal; for no sooner did the news of distress in Lukhimpur reach it than it began to take active steps to relieve it, while the Government of Bengal refuses to believe the news of deaths by starvation.

ARYA DARPAN.

41. The same paper thinks that the Government of Bengal should for the benefit of the cultivators bring from Madras the improved plough recently invented by Krishna Swami Mudilier.

ARYA DARPAN.

42. The same paper draws the attention of the Calcutta Police to the obscene pictures hung up for sale in Tirretabazar.

ARYA DARPAN.

43. The same paper says that the Government of Bengal has at last come to realise the severity of the distress in Beerbhoom. It has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for relief works. Had this been sanctioned a little earlier, many people might have escaped falling into difficulties, and the relief work would not have been so difficult. Rs. 10,000 will not do, more will be soon required.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
June 12th, 1885.

44. The *Education Gazette*, of the 12th June, in noticing the application made by the Mahomedan community of Bombay to the new Governor Lord Reay, with a view to obtaining facilities for Mahomedan advancement, remarks that, if every section of the community ask and obtain special facilities for education and advancement, it will prevent the union of the different sections, which is so much desirable. Such application for special facilities is dictated by selfishness alone.

PRATIKAR,  
June 12th, 1885.

45. The *Pratikar*, of the 12th June, does not understand why the English are obstinate in refusing to trust the natives, who are supplicating them in a piteous manner. The English seem not to understand that hard treatment can never produce good feelings, and that kindness can tame even the wild beasts of the forest. The English seem to care nothing for the natives. This state of things will do good neither to the one nor to the other. Obstinacy in the ruler not to please his subjects is bad policy.

PRATIKAR.

46. The same paper says that it will be a great sinner if it speaks anything which is not based on facts. Mahomedan rule did not reduce India to a hundredth part of the misery to which English rule has subjected it. There was no scarcity of food and water during the Mahomedan period. However much English history may denounce Mahomedan rule, Mahomedan rule never wounded the feelings of the natives so much, and never tried indirectly to sap the foundation of internal improvements. People carried on trade and commerce, and enjoyed much freedom. The Mahomedans



are blamed for violating the chastity of females, and for killing men; but people have by this time come to know how far the English are free from these crimes. People have cried themselves hoarse by proclaiming the story of distress, but Government has not yet come to its senses. Government seems to be determined to pooh-pooh the idea of a famine. People congratulate themselves on the fact that they live under a civilised Government, but that Government remains unmoved, indifferent, fixed, and bent on pleasure, while famine is sweeping away its subjects in numbers. If the work of Government were so easy, if the highest pitch of statesmanship were to believe or disbelieve facts at pleasure, why should people be unwilling to live under a barbarous and despotic Government? Hundreds of thousands of proofs there are of the existence of famine, and still Government wants to prove that there is no famine. Is this worthy of a liberal Government? The heart sinks within itself to think of the miserable and wretched scenes in Bankoora, Beerbhoom, and Burdwan. People are crying everywhere for want of food and water. If the people of these districts survive these sufferings they will remember to the end of their days how kind the English Government had been to them.

47. The same paper does not understand how the Magistrate of the district could come to the conclusion that

Death by starvation in Khargram.

there was not a single death by starvation at

Khargram. The correspondent of the *Bangabasi* is not a boy, and people cannot believe that he sent a telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor without ascertaining the facts. From the enquiry made by Ram Kumar Vidyaratna in Khargram, it is clear that fourteen persons have died of starvation, and that there is great distress in the village. Unless it be clearly proved that the statements of the correspondent of the *Bangabasi* and of Pandit Ram Kumar Vidyaratna are false, people will not be able to believe those made by Government officers. The Government may entertain a different idea of the sufferings of natives, but before believing its officers, it should at least ask the correspondent and Pandit Ram Kumar why they have given currency to a false statement.

PRATIKAR.

48. The same paper says that the people of the sub-division of Kandi are suffering greatly from the effects of the scarcity of food and water.

Scarcity in Kandi.

PRATIKAR.

49. The result of the Entrance Examination this year has not, in the opinion of the same paper, been satisfactory.

The Entrance Examination.

This is owing to the fact that unlike other years the answer papers on the same subject have this year been examined by different men whose standard of valuing papers differed. This has ruined the prospects of many young men, and something should be done for the candidates who have become unsuccessful for this reason.

PRATIKAR.

50. The same paper says that the English have, by making a permanent settlement of lands with the zemindars for their own convenience, ruined the ryots,

The grievances of the ryots.

whose rights in the land are not treated with respect. Then again the English imposed the road cess upon the zemindars, who never pay it from their own pocket, but exact it from their ryots. Ryots groaned under the various imposts imposed upon them by Government and by the zemindary system; and still Government imposed another cess of 2 pice in the rupee. And for what purpose were these cesses imposed? Government perhaps has forgotten it; those that pay remember it well. Government imposed a tax for famine relief, but spent it in the Kabul war. It changed its mind,

PRATIKAR.



and the proceeds of the tax were credited to the Famine Fund. There is famine in Bancoora, Burdwan, and Beerbhoom; but no portion of the Famine Fund is being spent in relieving it. If the Government speaks one thing and does another, the people cannot always entertain the same opinion of it. But as regards Government, its officers great and small are on the same level; otherwise it could not have spent Indian money in the Egyptian and the Soudan war. The natives do not like to rebel, but they desire to make their grievances known to the Government with the view of obtaining redress. If the Government does not hear them, or sympathise with them, and tries to suppress them, how can it boast of its magnanimity?

PRATIKAR,  
June 12th, 1885.

51. A correspondent writing to the same paper says that the new system of sending the value of money-orders through the peons of post offices has necessitated the taking of securities from them. The writer thinks that the one rupee that is every year deducted from their pay should be considered as sufficient security. The work of the Talibpur Post Office is very heavy, and one peon is not sufficient for its work; another peon therefore should be appointed. If a line is opened from Talibpur to Mougram, it may facilitate the delivery of letters and packets from Calcutta.

The Talibpur Post-Office.

PRATIKAR.

52. A correspondent writing to the same paper draws the attention of the Magistrate of the district of Moorshedabad to the scarcity of water in the villages of Amlai, Gopinathpur and Bhaluipara which may be removed by re-excavating the large tank at Amlai, which supplies drinking water to all these villages, but which is now very nearly dried up.

Scarcity of water at Amlai.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
June 12th, 1885.

53. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 12th June, says that India is now in the hands of foreigners. The English are its rulers. Will this state of things continue for ever? Impossible. Sooner or later India will slip from the hands of the English. Will it not change hands? If so, will it fall into the hands of Russians? No. It will not fall into the hands of foreigners, but it will slip from the hands of the English. In this way, Russia and England will fight with each other for the possession of India; but Russia will not be able to snatch it away from England, because France, Germany, Italy, and America will not allow anyone to be the sole possessor of India. A scuffle will ensue for the division of its territories. England will never be able to bear the idea that India should be enjoyed by others. As soon as Englishmen will perceive that they cannot defend it, they will try to give it autonomy in the same way as autonomy has been granted to Bulgaria, Roumelia and other provinces of Turkey. The extension of the Russian empire in Central Asia is a good thing for India; but Russia will never be able to obtain India. England will earn eternal fame by unfurling Hindu banners in India for checking Russian advance. The writer prophesies that India will ultimately belong to the Hindus.

The future of India.

PRAJABANDHU.

54. The same paper is glad to notice that, its recent article on the subject of the Shamnagar ferry has attracted the notice of the Magistrate who came to the spot to make an enquiry. The grievances of the people are these:—

The ferry ghât between Shamnagar and Telinipara.

- (1) They cannot know the rate of fees. On a passenger demanding to see the schedule of rates, the farmer produced one signed by Mr. Beames as Magistrate. But the writer thinks that that schedule has been superseded by new ones.



- (2) There are no oars in the boats. On the day the Magistrate came, two boats were provided with oars.
- (3) There is only one boat that remains in the ghât. This is a serious inconvenience. The boatmen are often not to be found. It often so happens that the passengers who arrive at the Shamnagar station after dusk cannot cross over the river.

55. The *Patáká*, of the 12th June, says that at this time of financial difficulties, the Salaries Commission, which

PATAKA,  
June 12th, 1885.

The appointment of Commissions.

would cost not less than a lakh, should not have been appointed. The work for which the Commission has been appointed could have been done without its appointment. It is also said that another Commission has been appointed for enquiring about the castes and occupations of the people of Bengal. Where is the necessity of the appointment of a large number of Commissions at this time of financial difficulties?

56. The same paper referring to the death of Kumar Kumudeshwar of Gowhati from cholera says that the authorities have done a very bad thing if it is true that they did not make suitable arrangements for the feeding and lodging of one accustomed to good living like the deceased Kumar. Every one in Gowhati believes that the treatment of the authorities towards the Kumar was very bad. The writer would like to know whether medical aid was not called in in the first stage of the Kumar's illness. If this was not done, who is responsible for it?

PATAKA.

57. In noticing the unfortunate death of Kumudeshwar, the last scion of the royal family of Assam, the *Bangabási*, of the 13th June, remarks that the poor boy was compelled, by the Deputy Commissioner against his own wishes and those of his mother, to lodge in a hut without any bedstead to keep off ants from disturbing his sleep. The boy himself gave out that he could not live in such a wretched condition. He was attacked with diarrhoea within five or six days of his first entrance into the hut, which in a short time developed into cholera. No arrangement was made for his treatment when there was time for it, and no suitable arrangement for his funeral, which it is said cost only two rupees and eight annas. The writer implores Government to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Deputy Commissioner.

BANGABASI,  
June 13th, 1885.

58. In noticing the transfer of Baboo Radha Kanta Banerjee, the relief officer of Mankur, to Culna, who did his duty to the satisfaction of all concerned, the same paper expresses a hope that his successor at Mankur may be as humane and as clever as himself.

BANGABASI.

Baboo Radha Kanta Banerjee, relief officer at Mankur.

59. The same paper says that Bengal is an agricultural country. For want of a sufficient quantity of rainfall during the past few years, the produce has decreased by 75 per cent. The elements are rather hard with the people of India, and the rulers exact the taxes notwithstanding all their sufferings. The writer does not understand how Government can exact the revenue when the outturn of the crops is next to nothing. Rulers of India rashly enter upon war, and the people are starved to provide the expenses. The people are not happy at home, because their rulers coming from a great distance are snatching away the last morsel from their mouth. Such unrighteous deeds cannot make any one prosperous. The subjects have a right to represent their grievances to the rulers, and these in their turn are bound to make them happy. If the rulers do not perform their duty, they are sure to feel the consequence.

BANGABASI.

The famine and the Government.



BANGABASI,  
June 13th, 1885.

The writer hears that the Lieutenant-Governor sent for Mr. Lewis to enquire of him about the famine, and that Mr. Lewis declared that there was no famine. The writer considers this to be a misrepresentation of facts, and says that it is not well for Mr. Lewis to make a false representation in this way. Sir Rivers Thompson is not going to make him a sharer of his throne, nor to increase his salary; then why should he sacrifice the lives of hundreds of thousands of men for no purpose? The principal duty of the ruler is to make his subjects contented and happy. If he fails to do this he can never prosper.

SANJIVANI,  
June 13th, 1885.

60. After describing vividly the enthusiasm displayed by natives of all classes in the recent movement to obtain the right of enrolment as volunteers, the *Sanjivani*, of the 13th June, says that while all India is expecting a liberal and statesmanlike reply to the memorials of natives on this subject from Lord Dufferin, the *Pioneer* announces that the consideration of the question has been definitely postponed.

SANJIVANI.

61. The same paper says that several famine-stricken persons, unable either to find occupation or to obtain charity anywhere, lay themselves deliberately on the railway between Bolepur and Ahmadabad, to have the pleasure of being run over. Trains have passed over them, and they are no longer in the land of the living. But who is responsible for their death? Government has taken the charge of relieving their distress in times of famine, and has imposed the license tax to meet the expenses of famine relief. Is it not therefore responsible for the suicides committed by meek villagers for want of food? Misappropriation of property is a serious crime. Government may escape punishment for this crime, because it is powerful; but it should remember that there is an hereafter, and that God will punish those who misappropriate funds at their disposal.

SANJIVANI.

62. A correspondent writing to the same paper from Culna complains that want of good water has diminished the population of Culna, and makes the place unhealthy. There is not a single good tank in the city, and the people cannot pay the cost of getting water from the Ganges. The municipality should spend the greater part of its revenue in removing the scarcity of water, but instead of doing that, it has provided Rs. 1,000 only for this purpose. The writer does not think that the excavation of tanks is the best means of effectually removing the scarcity; because the tank, excavated by the municipality about four years ago, has become very nearly dry. He therefore proposes to supply Culna with Ganges water by means of drain-pipe at a cost of Rs. 25,000.

The Editor of the paper requests the Culna Municipality to try its best to remove the scarcity of water. This scarcity is not only felt in Culna, but in every part of the country. The public health will not improve unless this scarcity is removed. The famine correspondent says that in the mofussil scarcity of water produces greater suffering than even scarcity of food.

SANJIVANI.

63. The same paper hears that the High Court has, on the report of the District Judge, considered both Chaki and Talapatra to be guilty, and has asked them to file any statement they want to make within three days. They can even ask for a fresh enquiry. The writer thinks they will ask for such an enquiry. If they can prove themselves innocent, it will be all right.



but if they fail, they should be dismissed, excommunicated, and deprived of their degrees.

64. The same paper says that, Baboo Ram Gopal Chaki, the Sub-Judge of Berhampore, violated the chastity of the wife of Baboo Kartic Chundra Shah while at Cutwa, attempted to commit rape on the wife

The character of Ramyadub Chaki, Sub-Judge, Berhampore.

of Bholanath Chaterji, and tried to enter into the house of Nitya Nanda Goswami and Madhab Goswami, for which he was severely beaten. The staff of a cowherd was broken on his back at one time for his violating the chastity of the daughter of Rangalall Ghose. The writer learned all these facts from Kartic Chandra. He hears from a trustworthy source that the Sub-Judge was guilty of a similar brutal offence at Burdwan, but that some of the pleaders hushed the case up, and did not allow it to go to Court.

SANJIVANI,  
June 13th, 1885.

65. In noticing the death of Kumudeshwar of Assam, the same paper observes that this is a case of almost deliberate murder. His only crime was

The death of Kumudeshwar of Assam.

that the English snatched away the kingdom of Assam from his great grand-father. His family never accepted any help from the British Government. Why was he taken to Sylhet, and compelled to live on the damp floor of a miserable hut, where, he said, his death would be certain? And why was no arrangement made for his treatment? What reply would the English Government give, if any one accuse it of doing away with the last descendant of the royal family of Assam? The writer hopes that the Government will punish the local authorities for killing this young man.

SANJIVANI.

66. The Special travelling correspondent of the same paper says that the Government, the Indian Association, the Theosophist Society, the

The famine.

Brahmos, and Ray Dhanapat Sing have afforded considerable relief to the famine-stricken people of Beerbhoom. Many medical men have volunteered their services for the medical relief of the poor. Larger and larger numbers of men are coming forward every day to help in this good work. The Sadharan Brahmo Somaj is prepared to distribute rice to all those whom the correspondent considers worthy of getting relief. Government is distributing at the rate of three annas or six pice per week to about two thousand men. The Indian Association is supplying about one thousand men with food by giving them suitable occupation. The correspondent is loud in the praise of the Indian Association.

SANJIVANI.

67. The *Grámvártá Prakáshiká*, of the 13th June, says that it requested Government to advance Rs. 2 per bigha in Beerbhoom to the cultivators. Government

Famine in Bengal.

has at the request of the Indian Association sanctioned the small sum of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose, for which it deserves some thanks. This grant will help the cultivation of about 5,000 bighas of land only. Government is ready to spend crores of rupees on the destruction of life on the frontier, but it cannot spend much for saving life in Beerbhoom. Sir Rivers Thompson could easily have increased the grant if he had tried. The writer hears that the Commissioner of Burdwan will himself inspect the condition of the villages. The writer is afraid that famine will make its appearance even in the fertile districts of Northern Bengal, where the crops have failed for the last three years. Mr. Ruddock, the Magistrate of Rajshahye, on the receipt of the police report of distress at Durgapore in the vicinity of Putea, immediately sent a cannoongoe with Rs. 200 to the spot, but so many men came to obtain relief, that another sum of Rs. 500 had to be sent down. Government refused to grant relief when the crowd became immense.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
June 13th, 1885.



GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
June 13th, 1885.

63. The same paper requests Government to adopt the measures which have been recommended by the Famine Commission, otherwise people will be reduced to great straits. It is a fortunate circumstance that the recent rainfalls have inspired the people with some hope.

Famine relief.

GRAMVARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

69. With reference to the death of Kumudeshwar of Assam, the same paper remarks that formerly in Bengal the Mags and the Burgis were the only child-catchers, and people were very much afraid of them; but for the fault of its cruel officers, the English Government is now becoming a child-catcher. People will conceal their children at the name of Government. Will Government ever remain blind to the doings of the officers?

Death of Kumudeshwar of Assam.

SULABH SAMACHAR,  
June 13th, 1885.

70. The *Sulabh Samachar*, of the 13th June, hears that the Commissioners of the Naihati Municipality have resolved to spend Rs. 20,000 for the drainage of Naihati, of which Rs. 5,000 will be given by Government. The matter was decided during the incumbency of the last Chairman. If Rs. 20,000 is to be spent for the improvement of Naihati alone, why not spend Rs. 30,000 for the improvement of Garifa, which is also within the same municipality, and a few lakhs for that of Halishahar, Bhatpara, and other places which constitute the municipality. The cuttings of the new railway from the Naihati Station to the Hooghly Bridge can be utilized for the purposes of drainage. Let the drainage of other villages be improved, let there be parks for public resort, and let roads be improved. Let all these things be done slowly at a small cost and under due and proper supervision. If really useful work is done in this way, people will not think what that they pay has been wasted.

Drainage of Naihati.

SULABH SAMACHAR.

71. The same paper is loud in praise of the romantic and generous character of Mr. Naylor, the Magistrate of Narainganj, a young officer whose transfer to Mozufferpore is greatly deplored by the people of Narainganj.

Mr. Naylor, the Magistrate of Narainganj.

SULABH SAMACHAR.

72. The same paper says that the criminal negligence of the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati has put an end to the royal family of Assam. Government is certainly responsible for the acts of its officers, though there is no one who will venture to bring it to account for things like these. But there is God overhead. It is sure to receive adequate punishment for its crimes. The writer attributes the difficulties of Government to such crimes as these.

The death of Kumudeshwar of Assam.

SADHARANI,  
June 14th, 1885.

73. The *Sadharani*, of the 14th June, says that it is strange that though Government has been for a long time convinced of the efficacy of good drainage in diminishing the prevalence of malaria, it has made no serious efforts in that direction. Want of money may be pleaded as an excuse for no steps being taken in that direction. But in reply to this it may be said that the engineering establishment under Road Cess Committees should be reduced. The members of the Hooghly Road Cess Committee have given great proof of courage and sagacity by appointing for the last few years a native on pension as District Engineer instead of an Englishman on a large salary. But it is strange why nobody takes any notice of the appointment of a Superintending Engineer on a large salary in Burdwan since almost the time of the appointment of a native Engineer in Hooghly. Could not the work be managed as formerly, asks the writer, when there was no Superintending Engineer? Government's partiality towards Englishmen, shown by the above appointment, is

Road Cess Committees and good drainage.



blameworthy. The vast sum of money now spent upon the engineering establishment can surely be reduced. It is very painful to see the waste of the hard-earned money of the poor. Why is not the sum which can be saved by the reduction of the engineering establishment spent in securing good drainage? If that sum does not prove sufficient, the Road Cess Committee should be assisted with contributions from the Provincial Fund. Government should no longer remain indifferent to this matter. The zemindars, who are members of the Road Cess Committees, and thousands of whose tenants die prematurely of malaria, should reduce expenditure in other directions, sanction money for making drains, and earnestly ask for the aid of Government if the resources of the Committee should prove insufficient for the work.

74. The same paper says that the Anglo-Indians are dancing with joy at Mr. Gladstone's resignation. The zemindars of the British Indian Association also are very glad at this. But it is natural that those

India and the change of Ministry.

who are pained at the sufferings of India should be grieved at Mr. Gladstone's resignation by whose favour they obtained Lord Ripon for Viceroy. But there is no reason for any apprehension of mischief from the new Ministry. Lord Salisbury probably will be the Prime Minister in the new Cabinet. It was at his advice that the Press and Arms Acts were passed, and the standard of age for the Indian Civil Service was lowered. It was also he who prepared the way for the abolition of the import duties and for the Afghan War. Indians may well apprehend mischief from the accession of such a man to power. But Lord Salisbury will not be able to do without Lord Randolph Churchill. Consequently Lord Randolph Churchill will have to be taken into the Cabinet. Lord Randolph Churchill will keep Lord Salisbury steady. But people may apprehend the appointment of Lord Lytton as Secretary of State for India. But Lord Lytton is a man who is always guided by others. There is no probability of any great mischief being done by such a man.

SADHARANI.  
June 14th, 1885.

75. The same paper says that the number of inhabitants in the Khargram thanna is 63,000. The Lieutenant-Governor assumes that the correspondent of the *Bangabasi* meant that the

The correspondent of the *Bangabasi*.

31 deaths from starvation which he spoke of took place in a single village in the thana. But did the correspondent of the *Bangabasi* really mean this? It is strange that the statement of the correspondent has been proved to be untrue. The correspondent should contradict the Lieutenant-Governor's resolution; otherwise not only Government but also the respectable public will cease to place any faith in the statements of the correspondents of newspapers.

SADHARANI.

76. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of incendiarism in Jaynagore in the 24-Per gunnahs. The local police is indifferent to the matter. The present Police Inspector,

Incendiarism in Jaynagore and the local police.

Juedali Khan, is a worthless man. The writer entreats the authorities to send to the village Baboo Kishorilal Mookerjea who formerly served as Police Inspector there.

SADHARANI.

77. Another correspondent of the same paper is glad that the railway authorities have allowed Baboo Shama-charan, the able Station Master of Khurdah, three months' time to learn the work of

The Station Master of Khurdah and the ferrying charge in that place.

telegraphing. The correspondent complains that, in defiance of law, which fixes the ferry fare at one pice, two pice is being charged as ferry

SADHARANI.



fare in Khurdah. This arrangement is very inconvenient to poor people.

SADHARANI.  
June 14th, 1885.

78. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the inhabitants of Baganchra, Hijuli, Khaprajungul, Teyabali, Goalparah, Bankipore, and other

villages are suffering great inconvenience from the drying up of the neighbouring *bil*, named Bagdevi's *bil*. The draining away of the water of the *bil* by a *khal* is the cause of its drying up. The income of the zemindar of Nuddea from the water-tax has fallen off by Rs. 400 owing to the drying up of the *bil*. The Collector will do a great service by stopping the mouth of the *khal*.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
June 14th, 1885.

79. After quoting at some length the letter of the Dewangunge correspondent of the *Samaya*, in which Baboo Rajendra Kumar Guhu, the Deputy Inspector of Schools has been charged with introducing his own books alone within his jurisdiction, the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 14th June, advises the Baboo to contradict the statement, and requests the Inspector of Schools to make a thorough and sifting enquiry into the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH.

80. The same paper says that the English distrust the natives; they hesitate to entrust natives with high appointments. They do not take into consideration the vast changes wrought in native minds by a century of English rule and by English education. It is now time to change the policy of Government. If natives are trustworthy and loyal, it would be impolitic to disbelieve them. They are ready to sacrifice their life and all, but it is a pity that still they can not get the confidence of their rulers.

Distrust of natives.

DAINIK,  
June 15th, 1885.

81. A correspondent of the *Dainik*, of the 15th June, says that fear of municipal assessment deters many persons from excavating tanks within the jurisdiction of the Culna Municipality. Baboo Banemadhab admits that he is prevented from doing so by this very consideration.

Scarcity of water in Culna.

DAINIK.

82. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the scarcity of water in the villages of Maigram, Yadpur, Janchak, &c., in the Jehanabad Sub-division of the Hooghli district.

Scarcity of water in Jehanabad.

DAINIK.

83. A correspondent of the same paper complains of scarcity of water in several villages within the jurisdiction of the Cutwa thana.

Scarcity of water in Cutwa.

PRABHATI,  
June 15th, 1885.

84. The *Prabhāti*, of the 15th June, complains that passengers are not allowed to enter upon the platforms of the Bengal Central Railway, until a few minutes before the departure of a train, and a distinction is made of colour in this matter. Time should be allowed to the passengers to obtain seats in the carriages. The policemen direct third class passengers to go to the carriages at the rear, but those carriages belong to the intermediate class.

The Bengal Central Railway.

PRABHATI.

85. The same paper is glad to notice that intermediate class carriages have been introduced on Diamond Harbour Railway. But the number of third class carriages being small, great inconvenience is caused. Third class passengers are not booked even within 15 minutes of the starting of a train.

The Diamond Harbour Railway.

SAMAYA,  
June 15th, 1885.

86. Baboo Shoshibushan Mundul, Secretary to the *Sadbhāba Uddipani Sabha* of Rampore Hât, writing to the *Samaya* of the 15th June, states that the eldest son of Michhu Maul of Nihagrama has lost his life, and two children of Alam Sheik are in a moribund condition from want of food, and remarks

Famine in Rampore Hât.



that the time for making enquiries into the condition of the people is now gone. It is now necessary to go to the villages and distribute food freely.

87. A correspondent writing to the same paper says that the inhabitants of some parts of Durbhunga are in exactly the same condition as those of

Famine in Durbhunga.

*Beerbhoom*. It is said that Government has sanctioned Rs. 5,000 for relief works in this district, but the writer does not know what arrangements have been made for spending the money.

88. A correspondent of the same paper says that he has travelled in about twenty villages in Burdwan and Beerbhoom, and has observed scarcity of water in every one of them. The scarcity of water is perhaps greater than the scarcity of food. Unless good showers of rain fall at this time of the year, the prospect of the crop next year would be extremely deplorable.

Famine in Bolpur.

89. A correspondent of the same paper says that though there is no famine at Suvarnakhali, yet the price of rice has risen to Rs. 3-8 per maund, and people have no money to buy rice. They cannot borrow money even at the interest of two annas per rupee per month. The correspondent is glad to notice that Maharani Sarutsundari, Baboo Hemchundra Chowdhuri, and Ramsakhi Devi have granted Rs. 300 for removing scarcity of water at Suvarnakhali and Bharua.

Scarcity at Suvarnakhali.

90. The same paper says that the Government has in a manner declared that it will not do anything in the matter of famine relief. Mr. Lewis, the Commissioner of Burdwan, says that there is no famine properly so called, though prices have increased and there is some scarcity of water. Nothing can be expected from a Government which does not consider famine to be anything less than the death of lakhs of people and very high prices of food grains. Unless the people themselves unite to relieve their countrymen, there is no hope of saving life.

The famine and Government.

91. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 15th June, says that the Lieutenant-Governor should adopt the measures recommended by the *Bengali* newspaper for the relief of distress in Beerbhoom, and should even spend a larger sum of money if necessary. Mr. Tayler's proposal to give one pice worth of rice to children and two pice worth of rice to adults shows heartlessness. The acceptance of that proposal by the Lieutenant-Governor would, in the writer's opinion, amount to the cutting of the distressed people's throats. Efforts similar to those made by Mr. Coxhead should be made for the relief of the distress in Beerbhoom.

The distress in Beerbhoom.

92. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 15th June, says that the officials should not be allowed to have any direct or indirect connection with tea or indigo cultivation, not only in their own district, but also in other districts. Supposing a Magistrate or a Commissioner to have connection with tea or indigo cultivation in another district, can he not influence the Magistrate or the Commissioner of that district by the recommendation of a common friend? If again the Secretaries or Under-Secretaries of the Supreme or Local Government have any connection with tea or indigo cultivation, they may exercise undue influence when drafting laws, writing reports and resolutions, issuing circulars and passing orders on petitions. Any connection of the officials with railways even may lead to oppression. Not only is there probability of injustice and oppression being committed by executive officers connected with tea or indigo cultivation, but also by judicial officers who are similarly connected. The purity of the officials should be carefully guarded.

The officials and tea and indigo cultivation.

SAMAYA,  
June 15th, 1885.

SAMAYA.

SAMAYA.

SAMAYA.

URDU GUIDE,  
June 15th, 1885.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
June 15th, 1885.



NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
May 16th, 1885.

93. The same paper says that the Viceroy has sent a despatch to the Secretary of State recommending the appointment of natives as military officers.

Native soldiers and native officers.

If the Liberals remain in power, there is probability of the improvement of the prospects of native soldiers. It is not certain what will be the result if the Conservatives come into power. But Lord Randolph Churchill spoke in favour of native troops the other day. If those utterances are sincere, it is not improbable that, under the Tory Ministry too, the prospects of the native soldiers will improve. But as the writer does not place any faith in the words of Tory statesmen, he is uneasy in his mind. If natives are at once appointed jemadars in the native army as Englishmen are at once appointed as ensigns, many able natives will enter the army. The son of a Jagirdar of Madras has been at once appointed jemadar. There is no doubt that such instances will become more and more frequent. Because there is no doubt about this, men like the Editor of the *Englishman* have become afraid. But Government is not so foolish as to listen to the cries of these men. It should do all in its power to reduce the expenditure of India which is burdened with taxes. Half of the pay paid to English officers will be sufficient for native officers. This is a consideration why native officers should be appointed. Government is also going to do justice to the native soldiers by arming them with Martini-Henri rifles like English soldiers.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

94. The same paper referring to the death of Kumar Kumudeshwar,

The Assam Government, and death of Kumar Kumudeshwar.

the last descendant of the Kings of Assam, says that if the account of the circumstances under which the Kumar's death is said to have taken place is even partly true, the Assam Government deserves grave censure. If the account is true, will not the whole of India—nay the whole civilized world—blame the English Government? An enquiry should be at once instituted into the matter, and the officials who have brought this disgrace upon the British Government should be severely punished.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 15th, 1885.

95. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 15th June, contains an article headed "A protest against the Local Self-Government Bill," from which we extract the

The Local Self-Government Bill.

following observations:—Sir Rivers Thompson is not probably committing as much oppression in Bengal as was done by his predecessor, Sir Ashley Eden. But the oppression committed by Sir Rivers has been characterized by the fury and suddenness of a storm. By raising this storm of oppression, he has quite confounded the people of Bengal. His oppressions have left them no breathing time, and they have been at length compelled to give up all attempts at self-defence.

Lord Dufferin therefore would be acting like a shrewd administrator if he were at this moment, when the people of Bengal are all mad over the present political crisis, to give his assent to the Self-Government Bill for this province. If His Excellency were to do so, the people of Bengal would be greatly injured. The Editor, however, firmly believes that the Viceroy will not adopt this policy, the more so as the people of Bengal have not made any such agitation against Sir Rivers Thompson's Self-Government Bill as might have disposed His Excellency to support the Lieutenant-Governor. Bengalis are not making any agitation against the measure. His Excellency will therefore probably consider it impartially; and if he does so, he will find that the present Bill, instead of leading to the attainment of the object aimed at by Lord Ripon in his proposal to extend self-government to this country, is, on the contrary, calculated to lead to increased taxation and diminution of the power and independence now enjoyed by members of the Road Cess and other Local Committees. The present Bill, while it entrusts the Local Boards with the charge of an increased



number of works, does not make any provision for adequate and necessary funds. And yet the Bill lays down that the local authorities will have power to report against the Boards in case of any failure on their part to carry out their prescribed duties, and that Government may, if so minded, take away all their powers. Under these circumstances, the local authorities will be able to harass the Boards almost at every step, and Government to relieve them of any portion of their work.

The Boards will consequently have to depend a great deal upon the authorities, and this will interfere with their independence. The Local Boards have been placed under the District Boards, and the Unions under the Local Boards. The local officials will be the Chairmen of the District Boards and exercise control over them. This will not leave the people any independence. True, the elective system has been introduced into the Unions, but the members of the Unions are in all matters to act according to the orders of the Local Boards. These Boards again have not been all of them granted the privilege of the elective system, while the fact that all of them are under the control of the District Board will interfere with the independence of even those among them that have obtained that privilege. The District Boards again are completely placed under the control of Government. This shows that the way in which the Bill has been framed will not teach self-government to the people. Sufficient provision has not been made for funds, and the Boards will find themselves unable to execute the works which Government will require them to do. If this should be the case, the authorities will find an excuse for pronouncing the people of this country as unfit for self-government. Under these circumstances, the Boards may be compelled to ask Government to impose additional taxation, and thus the rulers may put on a new tax, throwing all the odium of the measure upon the Boards, and afterwards turning their unpopularity to account by saying that they have lost the confidence of the people. The rulers may also do this in another way, namely, by making the Boards unpopular owing to their inability for lack of funds to construct such public works as are now paid for by Government. All hope of justice now centres in Lord Dufferin. The people have not been in the present Bill given the rights which they are fit for. The measure, if it passes into law, will retard their political improvement, nay, even lead to their decline.

96. The same paper describes Anglo-Indians as being greatly exercised in their minds at the advance of Russians towards India. They are described as think-

Anglo-Indians.

ing within themselves that the advance of Russia need cause them no anxiety, inasmuch as powerful nations are living peaceably as neighbours in Europe. But instantly the thought arises in their minds that they have no natural right to India, and therefore cannot safely live in it with Russians as neighbours. They next hope that if Indians are on their side, and love the British Government as their own, no evil will befall the British Indian Empire. But then the painful thought crosses their minds that the Indians who are showing their loyalty to England now when they are weak and disarmed, and the Russians far off, may assume a different attitude when they become strong and are supplied with arms, and Russians are near. Then Anglo-Indians consider that natives can have no interest in subverting British rule, because the moment Englishmen leave India, Russia will take possession of the country. Fear now asserts itself, and Anglo-Indians remember that they hate and oppress natives, who would not be likely to forget this. While pursuing this train of thought, they hit upon the idea that if they can create in the minds of natives a dislike of Russians, there will be no desire felt by Indians for Russian rule. It is therefore considered proper to vilify Russians and their system of

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRICK,  
June 15th, 1885.



Government in the newspapers. But a doubt arises, namely, whether Indians will believe these newspaper accounts of Russians. The Anglo-Indians are then described as thinking of following a policy of trust and generosity towards Indians to secure their attachment; but this thought is soon dismissed in favour of another, namely, that as the result of this policy would be to destroy the power and prestige of Anglo-Indians, it should not be followed even though the Indian Empire were lost to England.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
June 15th, 1885.

97. The same paper remarks, in reference to the death of Kumar Kumudeshwar of Assam, that there is not much to be sorry for at the death of this young man, the last lineal descendant of the Assam Raj family. If he had lived for some years more, who knows what fate would have befallen him? Considering the vicissitudes of fortune that befel his ancestors, he would not have improbably died a day-labourer. Death has released him from all these possible troubles, as it will also some day bring rest to his sorrowing mother. But what justice will overtake the officials through whose neglect and injustice this noble family has been reduced to this plight? The lamentable circumstances under which Kumudeshwar has just met with his death are but similar to those in which hundreds of persons meet with their death in the British Indian Empire. Hundreds of respectable natives are subjected to oppression of the kind which the officials of Sylhet practised on the late Kumar. The natives complain of these oppressions, but in vain. The Editor does not say, nor does he believe, that the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet has deliberately murdered Kumar Kumudeshwar. He had no interest to do it, and yet but for his cruel treatment the Kumar would not have met with his death under such lamentable circumstances. Such cases of cruel treatment will continue to occur until Government sympathises with natives. And so long as the administration is conducted in this spirit, British rule will not be placed on a lasting foundation in this country, nor will natives look upon it as their own rule.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

98. The same paper refers to the oppressive character of Mr. Thomson of Madras. Wherever he goes he harasses the people by his high-handed proceedings. He has recently been deputed at his own request by the Madras Government to enquire about and report on the distress of the inhabitants of certain talooks of the Tanjore district. Mr. Thomson has undertaken to show that the distress of the people there is not so great as to call for the very liberal help from Government which has been recommended by the Collector of the district. While making the enquiry, Mr. Thomson abuses and insults everybody who contradicts him. His proceedings have created great alarm among the people of the afflicted localities.

SOM PRAKASH,  
June 15th, 1885.

99. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 15th June, complains that though Baranagore is only one mile distant from Calcutta, from 25 to 26 thefts have occurred in that place during the last two years. The police has not been able to trace most of these thefts. The worthlessness of the local police is due to two causes, namely, (1) the reduction of the number of constables, and (2) the neglect of their duties by the Inspector and the Sub-Inspector.

SOM PRAKASH.

100. Another correspondent of the same paper says that upon seeing the indifference of Government to the distress in Beerbhoom, Burdwan, and Moorshedabad, no one is speaking about the distress in Maldah and Rajshahye. Crops have not grown in these places for the last three years. The small quantity of crops that had grown in Asin and Kartick last has been exhausted. The inhabitants are now living upon wild potatoes, fruits of the banian tree, and other wild fruits. Over and above

Scarcity of food and water in Maldah and Rajshahye.



this scarcity of food there is scarcity of water. People are managing to live by bringing water in carts from a distance of from four to six miles. The cattle of many villages have died for want of water. How great the scarcity of water is may be realized from the following instances. There is only a very small quantity of water (from one to two cubits deep) in only three out of a 100 tanks in the village of Palsa.

101. The same paper is reassured upon seeing the Bengal Government making arrangements for giving tuccavi loans to the cultivators of Beerbhoom, and granting Rs. 10,000 for the relief of the distressed in that district.

SOM PRAKASH,  
June 15th, 1885

The Bengal Government and the distress in Beerbhoom.

102. The same paper says that Lord Salisbury is not liked by the Foreign Kings and Ministers. The Russian Ambassador has distinctly said that the Czar has so well behaved towards the English Government in the Afghan affair merely owing to his respect for Mr. Gladstone. India will be very much injured if the Conservatives come into power. It is said that in the event of the Conservatives coming into power, Lord Randolph Churchill will be appointed Secretary of State for India. The editor prays that India may be saved from such a danger.

SOM PRAKASH.

A Tory Ministry and Lord Randolph Churchill.

103. The *Surabhi*, of the 16th June, says that the high priest of the shrine of Baidyanath has been offering up prayers since the 15th May for the establishment of peace between England and Russia.

SURABHI,  
June 16th, 1885.

Offering up of prayers for peace by a Hindu priest.

104. The same paper says that if Lord Randolph Churchill is appointed Secretary of State for India, he will amend the Rent Act, and in that case the poor ryots will lose what little privileges have been conferred upon them by that measure. There is also great probability of India being injured by the erroneous opinions regarding it which Lord Churchill has formed without mixing with its people.

SURABHI.

Lord Randolph Churchill as Secretary of State for India.

105. The same paper says that the *Pioneer* has for some time past been discussing the difficulty of recruiting soldiers in India at present. In order to remedy the evil, the officials have proposed, though reluctantly, that a small number of natives should be appointed to high posts in the army. Sir Richard Temple has, in an article in the *Contemporary Review*, attributed the reluctance of Indians at present to enter the army to the prevalence of peace in the country, and to the improvement that has taken place in the condition of the people. In the same manner Sir Rivers Thompson said that the increase of drunkenness in Bengal, was not due to the outstill system, but to the improvement that has taken place in the condition of the people. Any one who thinks about the subject can see the dreadful consequences which will be produced in future by the disappearance of the martial spirit from Indians. It is strange that Indians do not consider about such an important matter.

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106. The same paper says that Government is surely guilty of murder if the ward whom it has undertaken to bring up dies owing to its neglect. It is certain that the neglect shown by Government towards Kumar Kumudeshwar is the cause of his death. Is it right on the part of Government to illtreat in this manner the lineal descendant of the King of Assam, from which it is now deriving an income of sixty lakhs annually? The Kumar should have been treated like a prince; but Government treated him like a coolie. It is impossible for one accustomed to good living to retain his health while living in a damp hut. Still Government forced Kumar Kumudeshwar to live in

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The Assam Government and the death of Kumar Kumudeshwar.



such a hut. Such neglect is the cause of the Kumar's death. The editor advises the relatives of the deceased Kumar to institute a suit against the Assam Government for killing him by neglect.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,  
June 16th, 1885.

107. The *Samvād Prabhākar* of the 16th June, says that the ruler is responsible for the lives of the ruled. Sir Rivers Thompson was blamed on all hands

for not paying attention to the sufferers from the effects of the scarcity of food and water. But it is a matter of satisfaction to find that he is now paying some attention to them. He has sanctioned Rs. 10,000 for the relief of the starving and for removing the scarcity of water. He deserves the thanks of the people for making this grant. If he went personally into the famine districts for inspection even for a short week, people would be very glad and praise him loudly.

PRABHATI,  
June 16th, 1885.

108. The *Prabhātī*, of the 16th June, hears that the High Court proposes to hold an examination for the appointments of munsiffs. The writer approves of

the proposal ; but he is sorry that the examination is likely to be conducted *vivā voce*. Sound knowledge and eloquence do not as a rule go hand in hand. And the system of oral examination is likely to make the number of eloquent munsiffs large. The examination, if properly conducted, will do immense good, and it should be introduced even in appointing the Judges of the High Court, for there are many Judges who know nothing of the Hindoo Law.

SAMVAD PURNACHANDRODAYA,  
June 19th, 1885.

109. The *Samvād Purnachandrodaya*, of the 19th June, says that the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality asked the permission of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality might officiate during the absence on leave of the Chairman. But the *Englishman* says that Mr. Bourdillon is to act as Chairman. The writer thinks that the *Englishman*, which is the organ of the Lieutenant-Governor, is rightly informed. From the attitude of the Lieutenant-Governor towards self-government, no one ever thought that he would sanction the proposal of the Commissioners. If the Vice-Chairman is not allowed to act as Chairman, the writer will think that the ill-feeling of the Lieutenant-Governor towards the Commissioners has not abated.

The Lieutenant-Governor and the appointment of an Acting Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality.

SAMVAD BĀHIKA,  
June 4th, 1885.

110. The *Samvād Bāhikā*, of the 4th June, points out that Baboo Ramnath Ghose, the treasurer of the Balasore Collectorate, has been serving in that capacity for the last 20 years without any hope of promotion. It therefore pleads that his case should be specially considered when the time comes for the consideration of the prospects of all ministerial officers in conformity with the recent resolution of Government on the subject.

The treasurer of the Balasore Collectorate.

UTKAL DĪPIKA,  
May 30th, 1885.

111. Referring to the defalcation of road cess money, recently discovered in the Balasore Collectorate, the

*Utkal Dīpikā*, of the 30th May, observes that an auditor should also be appointed to examine the road cess accounts in the Pooree and Cuttack Collectorates, as complaints of a serious nature have been heard from people paying road cess to Government.

UTKAL DĪPIKA.

112. Referring to a recent resolution of Government on the administration of road and public works cess in the

Government resolution on the administration of the road and public works cesses.

Bengal Presidency, the same paper remarks that as the tenants of the Burdwan Division have experienced all the evils of scarcity and famine, Government ought to exempt them from the payment of the road and public works cess due from them for the current year.



113. On the same subject the *Utkal Darpan*, of the 2nd June, makes the following stirring remarks:—"In the face of evidence like this, it is not intelligible how

Famine in Bengal.

the *Englishman* can have the hardihood to say that a serious crisis is not imminent. The *Mirror* has given some very deserved hard hits to that journal, which has evidently winced under them. For our part, we must say that we share the apprehensions of the *Mirror*, the *Herald*, and the *Bengalee*, and our own experience of the growth and development of past famines justifies us in entertaining them as well as in drawing public attention to them. Since the Bengal Government is not disposed to take any prompt and efficient measures to nip the threatened danger in the bud, Lord Dufferin should interfere and at once appoint a Commission composed of officials and independent European and native gentlemen to make a local enquiry into the matter; but he must not suspend all action till the result of the enquiry is known. The Bengal Government must be made to shake off its lethargy and indifference and adopt active relief measures, no matter even if some expenditure is unnecessarily incurred. It is the people's money which constitutes the public exchequer, and it may well be drawn upon and even drained when the people are to be rescued from misery and death."

UTKAL DARPAN,  
June 2nd, 1885.

114. The same paper makes the following remarks on the constitution of Legislative Councils in India:—

Constitution of Legislative Councils  
in India.

"We have indeed an Imperial Legislative Council, presided over by the Viceroy and Governor-General, and he is aided in his deliberations by officials and non-officials; but the misfortune is that only two or three native gentlemen can be found among the latter. So that when an important measure is brought forward, which the Government wishes to see passed, one may rest assured that it will be carried out, however strongly the native members might protest against it in the interest of the country at large. The local Legislative Councils, we mean those of Bombay, Madras, and Bengal, are all constituted like the Imperial one. In fact, therefore, all these Councils are gigantic shams, and have been over and over again denounced as such. But it is not the interest of Government to alter their constitution. So long as they exist, they can be paraded as representative institutions, and the world may thus be duped into the belief that India is governed upon very wise and liberal principles. But we know it for a fact that they are often converted into engines of oppression. This is harsh language, we admit, but not harsher than what may be very fairly used when certain recent legislative enactments are taken into consideration. Our readers have doubtless carefully studied the debates on the Bengal Tenancy Act,—an Act which at once oppresses the zemindars and the ryot. This was very ably and clearly pointed out by the native members of the Imperial Council, but since Government was determined to have the Act, no amount of opposition would avail. The instance of the Tenancy Act is not the only instance indicative of the imperiousness and absolutism of the Government. There are numerous others. It cannot, in the face of such stern facts, be denied that the so-called representative character of our legislature is a pure myth."

UTKAL DARPAN.

115. In the course of an article on the Antiquities of Orissa, the *Sebaka*, of the 3rd June, digresses into the following remarks on the administration of Road Cess

Administration of the Road Cess  
Fund in Orissa.

in Orissa:—

"What we want to point out at the present moment is the fact that the Road Cess Departments of the three districts of Orissa have proved themselves indifferent and incompetent by neglecting to join the Grand Trunk Road with the important seats of pilgrimage in their respective jurisdictions by branch communications, which, if constructed and properly

SEBAKA,  
June 3rd, 1885.



managed, would have brought them good profit in the end. The Balasore Road Cess Committee found themselves unable to open a road to Jajpur noted for temples of rare architecture, though they allowed their purses to be robbed more than once by scoundrels like Shyamcharan and Banamali. Surely public scandals could go no further if we are to believe our contemporaries of the *Utkul Darpan* and the *Samvād Bāhikā*. The Pooree Road Cess Committee have failed hitherto to supply a good metalled road leading to Bhuvaneswar, Khundagiri, and Udaygiri, to the pilgrims of different lands, though a kutchha road from Chandaka to Bhuvaneswar is under construction, we believe, through the exertions of Mr. Taylor, the Sub-divisional Officer of Khoorda. Contrast the administration of the Road Cess Fund in Mogalbandi with that in Dhenkanal, where a beautiful and well paved stone-ladder has been constructed from the foot of the mountain Kapilas to its summit, and say if the Gurjats are not superior to the Mogalbandis in taste, forethought, intelligence, and love for antiquities. In our opinion the administration of the road cess by the Road Cess Committees of Orissa is not satisfactory, and it remains to be seen how the local Boards constituted under the Local Self-Government Act will administer the same. At any rate the centres of pilgrimage in Orissa must have good, strong, and metalled roads leading to them, for, if Orissa is noted and revered for anything, it is for its being the mysterious land of holy pilgrimage.

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*The 20th June 1885.*